



STORY AND ART BY
KIA ASAMIYA









Steam-Punk Mysteries

The place is Steam City, a mixture of London and Tokyo's Asakusa district, and boy detective Narutaki is gaining quite a reputation as he solves the myriad of mysteries that come to his door.

In his first case, the evil Phantom Knight tricks beautiful nurse Ling Ling and her *megamaton* robot Goriki into luring Narutaki into a trap. After the defeat of the Phantom Knight, Ling Ling and Goriki ask to join Narutaki and his butler Kawakubo in the Narutaki Detective Agency, and together they form the Steam Detectives.

But their work is just beginning and the agency finds itself opposed to a dizzying array of villains including not only Phantom Knight, but Ling Ling's evil opposite Lang Lang abetted by the boy criminal Le Bread; the literary villain come-to-life Steam King, vigilante killer Don Death; and the ingenious cat-burglar the Red Scorpion.

Narutaki and his friends solve every case with which they are presented until they meet a child who needed a rare vaccine to survive a terminal illness. While transporting the vaccine from Electrical City back to Steam City in a dirigible, Narutaki is forced to battle two terrorist hijackers. Although Narutaki defeats the terrorists and saves the passengers and crew of the dirigible, he is not able to deliver the vaccine in time to save the little girl. Now, in a deep depression, Narutaki questions whether he can go on with his work.



Narutaki

Son of the greatest detective in the history of Steam City, his parents' murder has left him with only his butler's help in his quest to follow in his father's footsteps



Ling Ling

It is known that the beautiful nurse Ling Ling's father is the great scientist Dr. Hsu and Lang Lang is her sister, but her past is still a mystery.



Goriki

A steam-powered *megamaton* robot that is fiercely loyal to Ling Ling. Somewhere inside its body is the brain of Dr. Hsu.



Kawakubo

Narutaki's loyal butler and a man of many resources.



CASE 16, Part 1
LING LING'S CHALLENGE!
RED SCORPION'S REVENGE!

IMPERIAL PENITENTIARY:
PRISM PRISON



IT'S A
JAIL-BREAK
!!



降

1977

THERE THEY ARE!

HA HA HA!

HA
HA
HA!

THESE STRIPED UNIFORMS HAVE NO CLASS! MY PRIDE CAN BEAR IT FOR ONLY SO LONG!

SO IT'S TIME TO SAY GOOD-BYE TO THIS PIG STY!

SO
IT'S
TIME
TO SAY
GOOD-BYE
TO THIS
PIG
STY!

!!

HA HA HA HA!

WAF WAF

BYE,
LITTLE
JAILER
BOYS!
IT'S
BEEN
FUN!

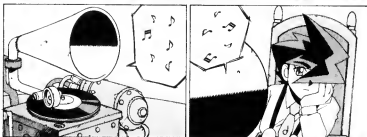


AHH
HA HA
HA HA
HA HA!
I
WON'T
BE
COMING
BACK!

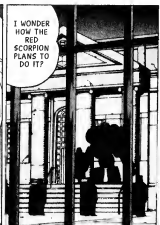
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA!

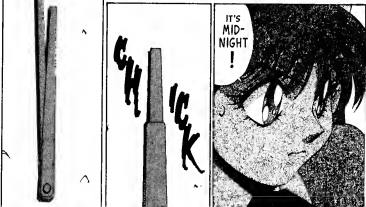
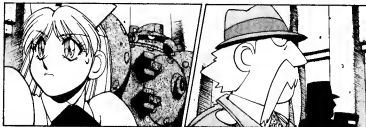
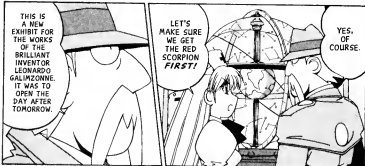
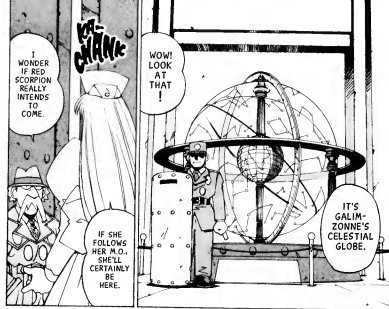
FWEEEEEE

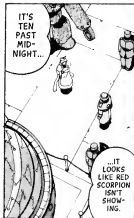
FW EEE EEE













THE
CELESTIAL
GLOBE
!!



HA
HA HA
HA HA
HAA!!

OH,
NO!



I'M
THE RED
SCORPION,
AND THE
CELESTIAL
GLOBE IS
MINE!!

FW
EE
EE

GOODBYE,
MR. WONDER
BOY
DETECTIVE
!!



IT'S
GONE
!!



"BOY"
?

NOW
WE'VE
DONE IT!
IS THE
RED
SCORPION
OUTSIDE
!?

DETECTIVE
YAGAMI!

HEY,
GET UP!
WE HAVE
TO GO
AFTER
THE RED
SCORPION'S
BALLOON!

I'M
HIS
ASSIS-
TANT,
LING
LING!

Y-
YES
SIR!

CONTACT
THE SQUAD
OUTSIDE!
WE'LL NEED
BACKUP
FROM THE
STATION
!!

KA-
FU
MP

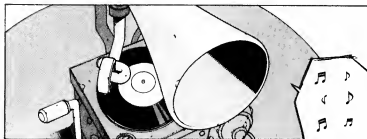
....



HMMM
...



RR
?



OH
NO,
YOU
DON'T
!!

IT'S
YOU
!!

...THE
BRAT GIRL
WHO'S
NARU-
TAKI'S
ASSIS-
TANT!?

HOW
DID
YOU--
!?!

HOW
ABOUT
REMEMBER-
ING MY
NAME
FOR ONCE!!
IT'S LING
LING!!

YOUR
PLANS
ARE
ALWAYS
FILLED
WITH
ERRORS
!

IF YOU
REALLY
HAD BEEN
IN THAT
BALLOON,
YOU WOULD
HAVE
KNOWN THAT
NARUTAKI
WASN'T
HERE.

"GOOD-
BYE, MR.
WONDER
BOY
DETECT-
IVE!!"

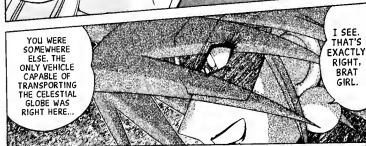
BUT IN-
STEAD
...

...WAS
WHAT
YOU
SAID.



SO I
THOUGHT
YOU MIGHT
HAVE PRE-
RECORDED
A TAPE
ASSUMING
NARUTAKI
WOULD BE
HERE.

WHICH
MEANT
YOU
WEREN'T
IN
THAT
BALLOON.



YOU WERE
SOMEWHERE
ELSE. THE
ONLY VEHICLE
CAPABLE OF
TRANSPORTING
THE CELESTIAL
GLOBE WAS
RIGHT HERE...

I SEE.
THAT'S
EXACTLY
RIGHT,
BRAT
GIRL.



AND
YOUR
REWARD
IS TO GET
RUN
OVER!!



GOOD-
BYE,
BRAT
GIRL!!

AND
SOON,
NARUTAKI'LL
MEET YOU
BEYOND
THE
GRAVE!!



I
TOLD
YOU.
MY
NAME'S
LING
LING!!



WH-
WHY
DOESN'T
THE
TRUCK
MOVE!!

YOU
WON'T
GET AWAY,
RED
SCORPION
!

I-I
DON'T
KNOW...



8-8-
BOSS!!
OVER
THERE
!!

WHAT
IS IT
!?!



CASE 16, Part 2
THE RETURN OF NARUTAKI!



GORIKI'S
MUCH
TOO
POWER-
FUL FOR
YOU!!

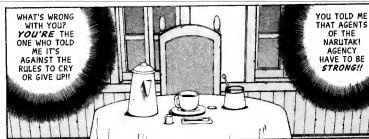
NOW
GIVE
YOUR-
SELF UP,
GRANNY
!!



EH...









HEY, WHAT'S
WRONG?
WHAT
HAPPENED
TO ALL YOUR
BRAVADO?

I
WON'T!
NEVER
!!

FINE!
JUST
KEEP
SAYING
THAT
AS YOU
DIE!!

YOU'RE
THE ONE
WHO
RAN TO
A ROOF
WITH NO
EXIT.
GIVE
UP!



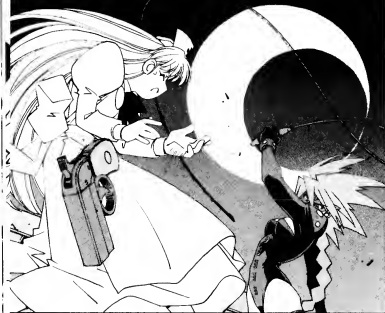
HA
H!

!!

SHUU

KR

HAK



UM
NN
...

HA
HA
HAA!

THE
WORST
A NURSE
SHOULD
WIELD
IS A
SHOT OF
MEDICINE...



...GUNS
DON'T
SUIT
YOU.

YOUR BIG
SISTER
SHOULD
WHIP YOU
INTO
SHAPE!
BUT WHERE
SHALL I
START?

YOUR
ARMS?
LEGS?
OR
MAYBE
YOUR
CHEST?



CUTENESS
AND YOUTH!
YOUR TYPE IS
THE **ONLY**
THING
POPULAR
THESE DAYS!
I **LOATHE**
YOU!

YOU WON'T
BE YOUNG
FOREVER!
EVERYONE
GETS OLDER!
YOU'RE GOING
TO BECOME A
WRINKLED HAG
IN NO TIME.



BUT I'LL
ALWAYS
BE
YOUNGER
THAN
YOU.

HAA
!!

TINK
KINK



NOW
YOU'RE
DEAD,
BRAT
GIRL!!

RR

RNGH!

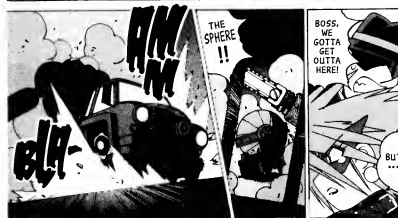
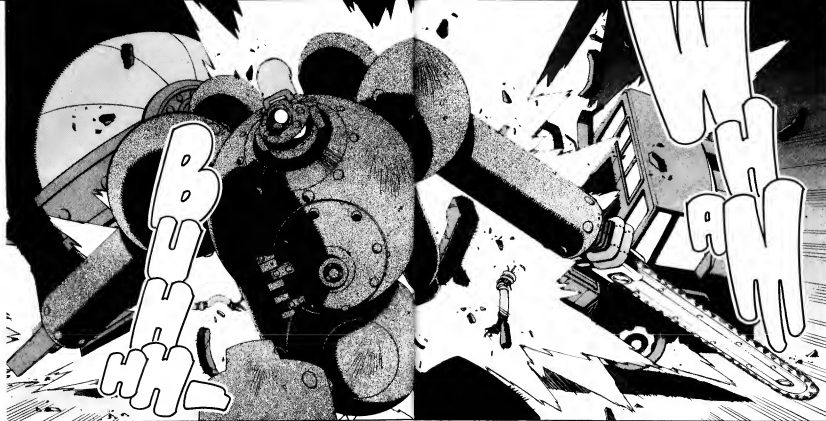
WH
OO

GRR
RR

ONK









Case 16: CLOSED

STEAM DETECTIVES PRESS

CHARITY BAZAAR AT THE IMPERIAL PENITENTIARY: PRISM PRISON



PRISM PRISON

A charity bazaar was held at Prism Prison where the female thief, The Red Scorpion, was imprisoned. Dozens of items were sold, including clothes, furniture, utensils, as well as other arts-and-crafts merchandise. The items were all hand-made by inmates in the prison workshops, but citizens attending the bazaar said they were impressed by the remarkably high quality of the items for sale. In fact, one of the items was a phonograph player built by the above mentioned Red Scorpion and her cohorts! It was purchased by a Mr. Haramae (41), a collector of criminal merchandise.

Mr. Haramae, his cheeks flushed with enthusiasm, told us in an interview, "At an auction, it would command the same bidding price as Steam City's greatest treasure, 'The Angel's Tear'! The proceeds from the benefit will be donated to the Steam Funds for Underprivileged Children.



RED SCORPION GANG



PHONOGRAPH BUILT BY
THE RED SCORPION

GOOD
MUSIC
EXPANDS
THE
SOUL...



RECORD SHOP
MORCEAU

The city's largest selection!
Find any record you are
looking for here.

We carry the entire catalogue
of the Seven Angels of music

Volume024 • Issued by Steam Press Co.,Ltd.

STEAM DETECTIVES PRESS



PRIVATE PHOTO OF BEAUTIFUL NURSE, LING LING

We know that there isn't a reader of Steam Press who doesn't know her, but she is the assistant of the boy detective Narutaki! Our staff managed to get hold of this super-exclusive private photo! It may not be as sexy as the shots previously published by Steam Press, but it is just as collectible!! She looks so cute in that china dress!! Lovely! Adorable! An angel on Earth!! Ah, words don't do her justice!! And now the world can feast their eyes!! Ling Ling, won't you take my pulse, just once!?

☞ An exclusive private photo of Ling Ling



EXTENSION TO STEAM CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM COMPLETED!

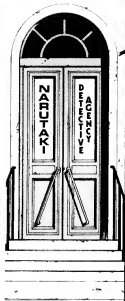
We are looking forward to your visit! Paintings depicting Steam City's history, including the works of Bohzar, Chelamika, Fedeer, and others are all collected in one exhibit!!

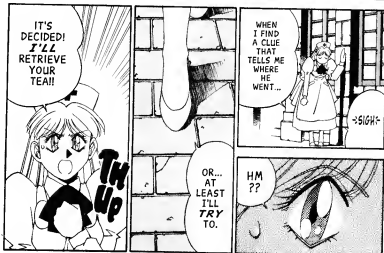
Volume025 • Issued by Steam Press Co.,Ltd.

CASE UNNUMBERED

INTERLUDE OPERATION AFTERNOON TEA







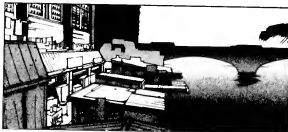


STEAM DETECTIVES PRESS

"BOAT FREEMEN" BEYOND THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTROL?

The crisscrossing canals of Steam City are used for traffic and trade, but in the past few years, Boat Freeman, illegal squatters using boats on the canal as their residence, have become a major problem for the government. The Boat Freeman are increasing every year, and in less than five years, their number will exceed 2,000. Current law does not classify the canal waters as a part of Steam City, so the Boat Freeman cannot be arrested or evicted. Because of their easy access to the city, and the high population of Boat Freeman, these canal areas have become hot spots for fugitives, and the crime rate has been increasing in Boat Freeman districts.

Residents who live by the canals are voicing their concerns over this issue, and the publicity is forging a reputation for Steam City as a haven for crime. We hope the government comes up with a quick solution.



THE BOAT FREEMEN ON DINAH RIVER

The Celine Swimming School Announces Student Auditions!!



Ms. Celine Norman, the city's foremost swimmer and last year's Steam Medalist, may be your personal instructor! Call now for an appointment!

TEL: 8A006-096-01135G

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CASE 17

LING LING'S LITTLE-BIG CASE

I'M
LING
LING
!!



I WORK
AS A
NURSE,
AND I'M
AN
ASSISTANT
AT THE
NARUTAKI
DETECTIVE
AGENCY!

I SPEND
MY DAYS
ASSISTING
THE
YOUNG
GENIUS
DETECTIVE
NARUTAKI
!!



H
M
P
H!

HOW-
EVER...

SPLASH

HOW-
EVER,
I...



CASE 17 LING LING'S LITTLE-BIG CASE



...HAVE
NO
IDEA
WHY I
HAVE TO
SEARCH
A DARK
SEWER!!



TO UNDER-
STAND,
YOU'D
HAVE TO
SEE THE
EVENTS
OF TWO
DAYS AGO...



...WHEN THE
CUTEST
CLIENT
EVER
ASKED US
TO FIND
SOME-
THING...

AH
HH!

TWO DAYS AGO...

WHAT!?
NARU-
TAKI'S
NOT
HERE
?

HE'S
BUSY
ON
ANOTHER
JOB.

BUT
I'D
BE
PLEASED
TO HEAR
YOUR
REQUEST.

ARE
YOU
REALLY
NARU-
TAKI'S
ASSISTANT
?

ARE
YOU
QUALI-
FIED?

I
CAME
HERE
ALL THE
WAY BY
MYSELF...

URK!

OF--
OF COURSE
I AM!
I'VE SAVED
HIM FROM
SEVERAL
TIGHT
SITUATIONS!

NOW
GO AHEAD
AND TELL
ME
WHAT'S
TROUBLING
YOU!

HUSSSSSSHH

.....

.....

I
WANT
YOU TO
FIND
KAMI.

KAMI?
IS THAT
YOUR
FRIEND,
YUKIMI
?

YEP!
THE
CUTEST
KITTY-
CAT!

SHE WENT
OUT AND
HASN'T
COME BACK
FOR TWO
DAYS!
SHE'S NEVER
DONE THAT
BEFORE...

I GOT
IT!
LING-LING
WILL
HANDLE
THIS
CASE!

KAMI
WILL BE
SAFE AND
SOUND IN
NO TIME!

THUMP

A
CAT
...

REALLY
??

THEN,
HERE
!

WHAT'S
THIS
?

IT'S
YOUR
PAY-
MENT!

KR-
CHANK

SO...
WHERE
DID YOU
LAST
SEE
HER?

KR-
CHANK



IT'S
FREEZING
DOWN
HERE.



NOTHING'S
GOING
TO HAPPEN
JUST
CIRCLING
THE
SEWERS...

SO I
BROUGHT
ALONG
MY VERY
OWN
SPECIAL
DEVICE...

YUKIMI
TOLD
ME THAT
KAMI'S
FAVORITE
FOOD
WAS...



BUTTER
CAKE
!!

I'LL JUST
SPREAD
THE SMELL
AROUND, AND
KAMI SHOULD
COME TO
ME!

HERE,
KAMI,
KAMI
!

HEH-
HEH!
THIS CASE IS
SIMPLE!



AH-
CHOO
OOO
OOO
!

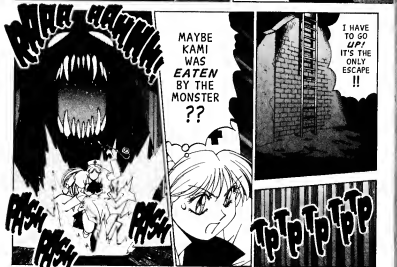
I DON'T
GET IT...
WHAT'S
TAKING
SO MUCH
TIME?



MAYBE
SHE
DIDN'T
COME
DOWN
HERE...

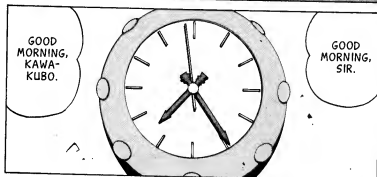
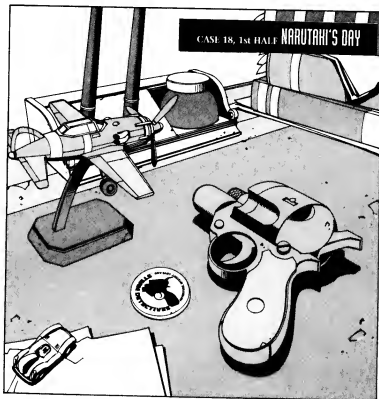
YUKIMI
SAID
SHE SAW
HER COME
DOWN
THOUGH...



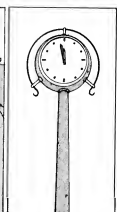
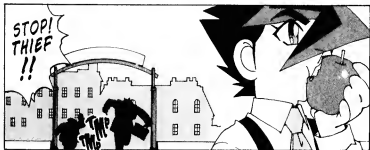
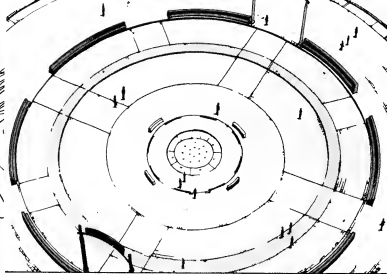


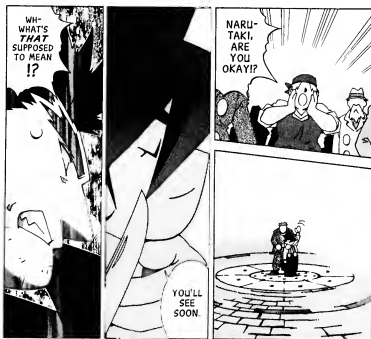
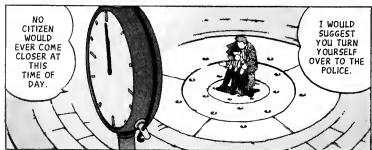
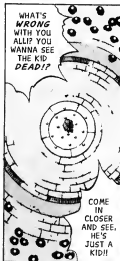


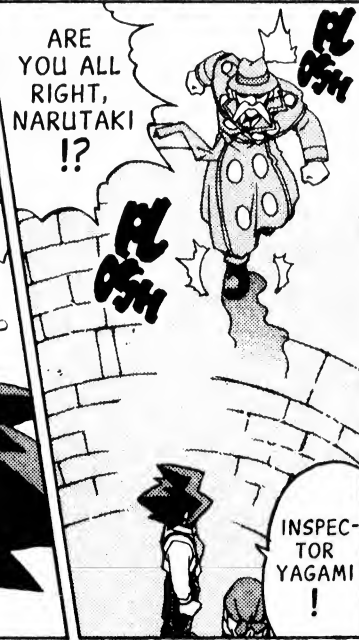
Case 17: CLOSED













DINNER
IS
SERVED.



HM?
WHERE'S
LING LING?

IT
APPEARS
SHE WILL
NOT BE
PRESENT
AGAIN,
SIR.



Klang

Klang

-SIGH-

Klang



HOW LONG
DO YOU
THINK LING
WILL
KEEP TRYING
TO LOSE
WEIGHT,
KAWAKUBO?

Klang

WELL, SIR...
MY ONLY
WONDER IS
WHEN WE
MAY EXPECT
TONIGHT'S
NOISE TO
CEASE...

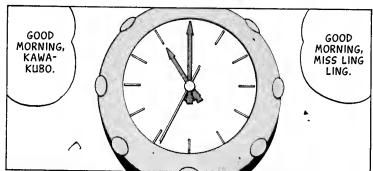
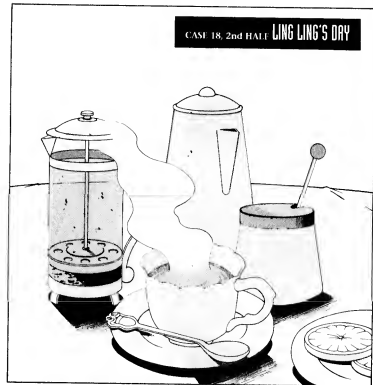
Klang

Klang

YES
THAT
IS THE
MYSTERY.

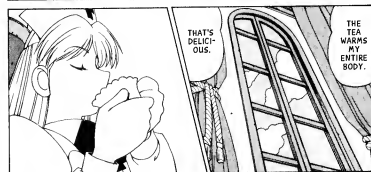
Case 18, 1st HALF: CLOSED

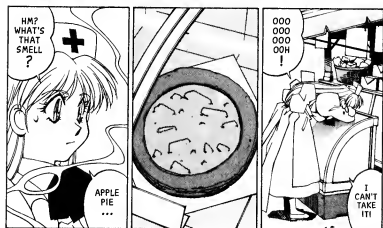
CASE 18, 2nd HALF LING LING'S DRY

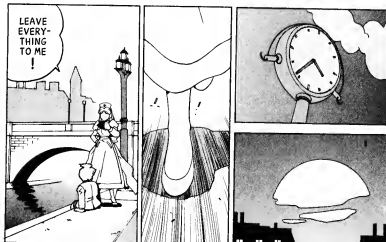


GOOD
MORNING,
KAWA-
KUBO.

GOOD
MORNING,
MISS LING
LING.











Case 18, 2nd HALF: CLOSED

CASE 19 LING LING'S BIG-LITTLE CASE

ASST NO. 21165
NO. 21507

AGES 4 AND UP

STEAM
DETECTIVES

RING-RING™

With
Rin-Rin Gun and Nurse Bag

SPECIAL COMICS
EDITION

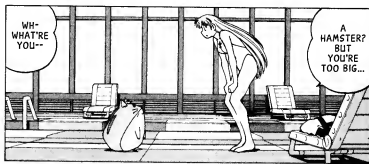
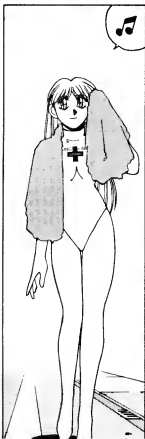
RIN-RIN BRAND

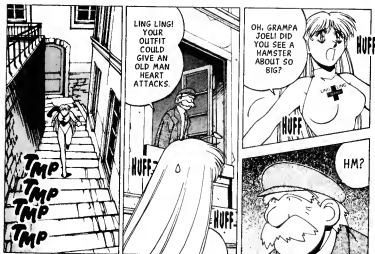
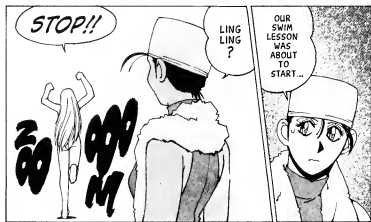
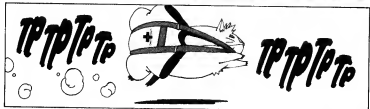
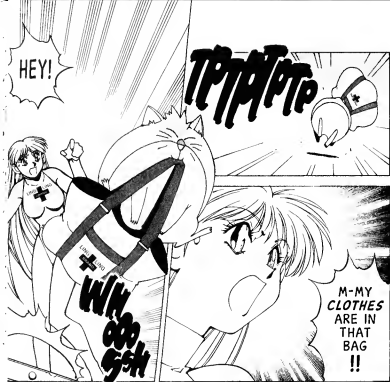
INCLUDES EXCLUSIVE ACCESSORY!

RIN-RIN'S
AND
STEEL SCOPE

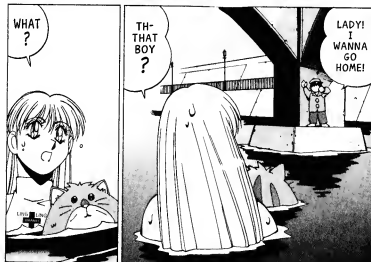
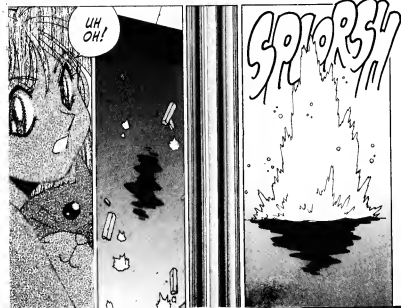
WARNING:
CHOKING HAZARD-Small Parts.
Not for children under 3 years.

STEAM
IRON
WORK MOUTH DETECTIVES



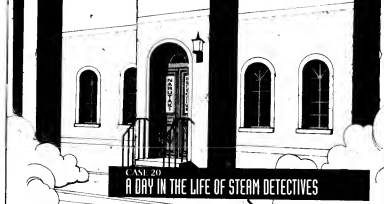


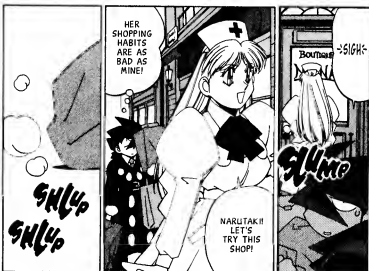
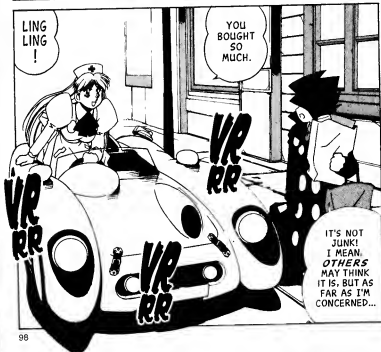






Case 19: CLOSED







STEAM DETECTIVES PRESS



"PRIMER" PROP PLANE FLYING OVER THE CITY

LINDBERGER'S FIRST FLIGHT FAILS!!

The world-famous pilot, Alfred Lindberger, attempted a flight in the world's first steam-engine-powered propeller-driven plane!! Before noon, Lindberger brought his odd-looking machine to the dirigible landing field. He was scheduled to fly it to a special runway constructed at the coal-mining fields.



IT HITS THE CLOCK TOWER!

In an interview, Lindberger claimed, "As long as there is a sky, I'm going to fly through it! It's my challenge to myself. Powered flight offers a taste of freedom that you just can't get from a dirigible."

His flight was proceeding smoothly when he suddenly suffered engine trouble and began losing altitude! After an unavoidable collision with one of the city's clock towers, his doom looked imminent! But fortunately, wonder boy detective Narutaki and his beautiful assistant Ling Ling were in the area, and Narutaki managed a magnificent rescue! The plane crashed into the River of Lights, but the pilot and Narutaki escaped without injury. Miraculously, no one was harmed in the crash.



LINDBERGER AND NARUTAKI SUCCESSFULLY REJEC.

IMPERIAL OPERA PLAZA APPROACHING
ITS 200th ANNIVERSARY CONCERT!!

OPERA: "SACRIFICE"

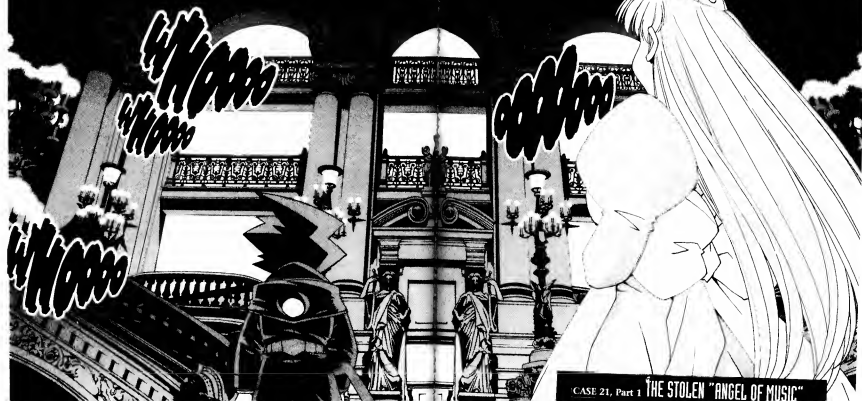
Written and directed by Mao Yohane
Starring Kyoko Mitsuboshi
Music by The Imperial Symphony
Tickets on sale now!!
Contact the Imperial Opera Plaza



Volume027 • Issued by Steam Press Co.,Ltd.



...INSIDE
OPERA
PLAZA!



CASE 21, Part 1 THE STOLEN "ANGEL OF MUSIC"



ESH

TSK !!

HE'S
HERE
AGAIN !!

KK

TWO

WHAT'S
GOING
ON?!

AA
AAA
AA!

WE
NEED
THE
LIGHTS
HERE!!

LADIES
AND
GENTLE-
MEN.
PLEASE
REMAIN
SEATED!!

WE
NEED
YOU TO
REMAIN
QUIET
!!

FW

!?

SHE'S GONE!!
THE PRIMA
DONNA
VINA VICCI
HAS
DISAPPEARED
!!

WHAT
HAPPENED
!?

GOOD
HEAVENS!

AGAIN?!
THIS
MAKES
THE
SIXTH
CASE!

OH

NOW
HORRIBLE!

DAMN! WE
HAD OUR
TIGHTEST
SECURITY
NET!

HE
BROKE
THROUGH
IT!!

HE
CAN'T
BE
FAR!!

FIND
HIM, NOW!!
OUR GOOD
NAME IS
ON THE
LINE!

TWO

WE
CAN'T
LET THE
SUS-
PECT...

.....

...LET
LE
BREAD
ESCAPE
AGAIN
!!

LADIES
AND
GENTLEMEN
PLEASE
STAY CALM
AND
FOLLOW
POLICE
DIRECTIONS!

ONCE YOUR
SEAT NUMBER IS
CALLED, YOU
WILL BE CHECKED
BY POLICE AND
ALLOWED TO
EXIT THE OPERA
HOUSE. WE
APPRECIATE
YOUR
COOPERATION.



COME ON OUT,
LE BREAD.
IT MUST BE
CRAMPED
IN
THERE.

THE
POLICE
LEFT
THE
BUILDING.



HA HA
HAAA.
YOU'RE
SO
MUCH
FUN.

BUT I
WIN AGAIN.
MY SIXTH
CONSECUTIVE
VICTORY.



MAYBE
NOT
!

WHAT
GOOD
IS
THIS
?

DO YOU
THINK
YOU CAN
CAPTURE
ME WITH
HAND-
CUFFS
?







I
DESIRE
THAT
WHICH
MOVES
ME!!

Woooo

WHETHER
TANGIBLE
OR
INTANGIBLE
!!



AND,
NARUTAKI,
I COUNT THE
FRUSTRATION
ON YOUR
FACE AS ONE
SUCH
INTANGIBLE!

URK!

NEXT
TIME,
I'LL BE
LOOKING
FORWARD
TO THAT
SAME
EXPRES-
SION!



HA HA
HA HA
HA HA
HAAA!

Wahoo
Wahoo

NARU-
TAKI
....

.....



LE BREAD,
CAN'T YOU
UNDER-
STAND
THE WORST
PART OF
YOUR CRIME?

Woooo

...CAN
NEVER
SING
AGAIN
!!

LOOK
AT
WHAT
YOU'VE
DONE!

NARU-
TAKI
....

HOW CAN A
HUMAN
DO SUCH
THINGS
?

Wahoo

Wahoo

THE
PRIMA
DOLLAS
YOU
FINALLY
RE-
TURNED...



PUTTING
ASIDE THE
POLICE'S
INCOMPETENCE,
I MUST SAY
THAT I'M
DISAPPOINTED
IN YOU AND
THEY CALL
YOU THE BEST
DETECTIVE IN
STEAM CITY!
HUMPH!







CASE 21, PART 2 THE GHOST OF THE OPERA





YOU SHOULD HAVE HIRED HIM SOONER. AFTER ALL...

...THE KID-NAPPER ESCAPED THE POLICE FIVE TIMES.

UH... WELL, YES.



NARUTAKI WILL CAPTURE THE CULPRIT.

NARUTAKI HAS ONLY BEEN ON THE CASE FOR ONE KID-NAPPING.

SO THE ANNIVERSARY CONCERT SHOULD OPEN AS SCHEDULED. WE MUST NOT LET OUR AUDIENCE DOWN.



LE BREAD'S KIDNAPPINGS HAVE EVERYONE AT THE OPERA WORRIED. IT'S NOT JUST THE PRIMA DONNAS BUT THE OTHER ACTORS AND EXTRAS...

...EVEN THE PIT ORCHESTRA. THE ONLY WAY WE CAN KEEP FEAR FROM SPREADING TO OUR AUDIENCE IS TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL PERFORMANCE.



...LE BREAD.

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT. IF YOU TWO INSIST, I WON'T CHANGE THE DATE. WE'LL GO AHEAD WITH THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT AS PLANNED.

AND NARUTAKI MAY STAY ON THE CASE.



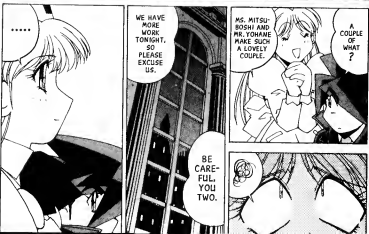
I PROMISE TO CAPTURE LE BREAD. YOU CAN RELAX AND CONCENTRATE ON YOUR PERFORMANCE, MS. MITSUBOSHI.

THANK YOU, NARUTAKI. I FEEL MUCH BETTER NOW.



WE LIVE FOR THE STAGE. OUR PURPOSE IN LIFE IS TO GIVE SUCCESSFUL PERFORMANCES FOR OUR AUDIENCE.

WE'LL BE SURE TO GIVE A WONDERFUL CONCERT.



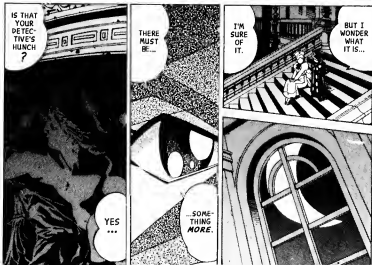
WE HAVE MORE WORK TONIGHT, SO PLEASE EXCUSE US.

MS. MITSUBOSHI AND MR. YOHAME MAKE SUCH A LOVELY COUPLE.

A COUPLE OF WHAT?

BE CAREFUL, YOU TWO.

OUR
PURPOSE
IN
LIFE
...







WHAT ABOUT THE SIXTH ANGEL OF MUSIC?

KLIK KLIK

SHE JUST HAD HER MEAL. SHE SEEMS TO HAVE CALMED DOWN A LITTLE.

WE MAY HAVE ABDUCTED HER, BUT SHE'S AN IMPORTANT GUEST.

TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER.



YES. YES. HAVE I EVER LET YOU DOWN?

NEVER. I'M SORRY.

WELL, GOOD-NIGHT, LE BREAD.

LANG LANG.

WHEN WILL YOU JOIN ME?

FMP
IT'S ALL RIGHT.

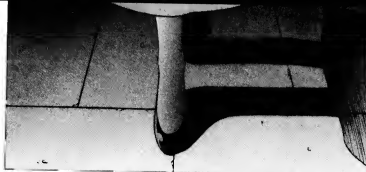


AFTER YOU'RE ASLEEP.

KLIK

I'M SCARED OF GOING TO SLEEP ALONE.

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND THAT, LANG LANG?



I KNOW, LE BREAD...

AND I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT YOU

...YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT ME.

...I KNOW THAT.



RMBL
RMBL
RMBL

LE BREAD ...

THAT'S
RIGHT!
IT STARTED
APPEARING
AGAIN AROUND
THE SAME TIME
AS THE
KIDNAPPINGS
BEGAN.

SEVERAL
PEOPLE
SAY
THEY'VE
SEEN IT.

IN THE
BASEMENT
OF THE
HALL...

ON
THE
ROOF...

A
GHOST
?

...IN
THE
SEATS.
TOO.

A
WHITE
FIGURE
APPEARS,
THEN
VANISHES.

THE SIGHTINGS
HAVE BECOME
MORE FREQUENT
SINCE THE
KIDNAPPING
BEGAN. IT'S
TERRIFYING!

I WONDER
IF THAT
GHOST HAS
ANYTHING
TO DO
WITH LE
BREAD...

I
HEARD
A LONG
TIME
AGO...

HMM
...

...THOUGH
THEATERS
ALWAYS
HAVE
SUCH
RUMORS...

THEY SAY IT'S
THE GHOST OF
A DIRECTOR WHO
DIED IN AN
ACCIDENT RIGHT
BEFORE THE
OPENING OF THE
OPERA PLAZA.

APPARENTLY,
HE WAS CRUSHED
BY STAGE LIGHTS.
BUT THAT WAS
TWO HUNDRED
YEARS AGO. SO I
DON'T KNOW IF
IT'S TRUE.

EVERYONE
THOUGHT IT
WAS THE GHOST
KIDNAPPING THE
SINGERS. UNTIL
WE FOUND OUT
ABOUT THAT
YOUNG
CRIMINAL.

THAT'S
RIGHT.

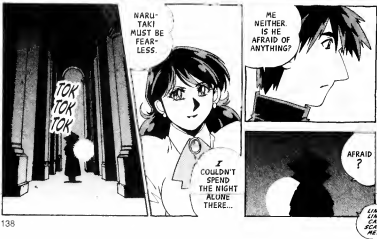
THE
MANAGER
WAS
SCARED OUT
OF
HIS
WITS!

THE GHOST
INCIDENTS
HAVEN'T BEEN
RESOLVED. SO
HE STILL
SEEMS
NERVOUS.

THANK
YOU
FOR
ALL OF
YOUR
HELP.

A
GHOST.
HUH?
NARUTAKI
WILL NEVER
BELIEVE
ME.









THERE
YOU
ARE!!

ZAK
VIP

THP

STOP
!!

GGGHHH

ARR
RRG
GGH!

!?

NARUTAKI!
ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT?
I HEARD A
CRASHING
NOISE...

I'M FINE.
MISS
FAY WENG.
I WAS
JUST
FIGHTING
A GHOST.

IT DIS-
APPEARED...
OR DID
IT
ESCAPE?

URR
RGH!



I-I'LL
NOTIFY
THE
POLICE.

ONE...

TWO...

THREE...

DID ONE
OF MY
NEEDLE
GUN SHOTS
HIT THE
GHOST?

HM?

BLOOD
...

SO EVEN
GHOSTS
BLEED
THESE
DAYS...

I'LL HAVE
KAWAKUBO
TEST THIS
SAMPLE.

HMM.

I GUESS
I'LL HAVE
SOME COFFEE
UNTIL
DETECTIVE
ONNANANAN
ARRIVES.



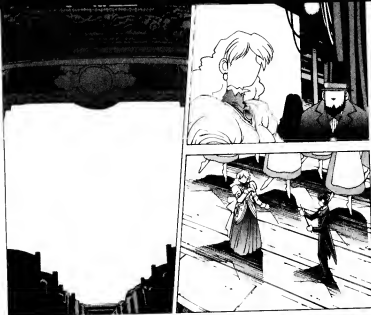
THAT
SHADOW
...

WHO
WAS
THAT
?

CASE 21, PART 3 **SACRIFICE**







HELLO.

HELLO,
NARU-
TAKI.



CON-
TINUE
!

THE BIG
CONCERT'S
NEXT
WEEK.

YES,
THIS IS
OUR FINAL
DRESS
REHEARSAL.



THE OPERA
"SACRIFICE"
IS ABOUT A
DOWNTRODDEN
MAN WHO
MAKES A PACT
WITH THE DEVIL
FOR FORTUNE
AND FAME.



THE MAN
PROMISES
TO
EXCHANGE
HIS CHILD'S
LIFE FOR
THE DEVIL'S
POWER.

FIVE
YEARS
LATER...



...THE
DAY OF
RECKONING
ARRIVES.

BUT...



...THE MAN
REFUSES. HE
WANTS **BOTH**
HIS CHILD
AND HIS
WEALTH.

THE
DEVIL IS
EN-
RAGED.



THEY HAD A
PROMISE! THE
DEVIL KILLS
THE MAN AND
ATTEMPTS TO
TAKE THE CHILD.

BUT THE
MOTHER
ESCAPES
WITH HIM,
FLEEING
UP THE
HOLY
MOUNTAIN.



THE
HOLY
MOUNTAIN
WARDS
OFF THE
DEVIL.

THE DEVIL
TRIES
EVERYTHING
TO COAX THE
MOTHER
AWAY FROM
THE
MOUNTAIN.

HOW
LONG CAN
YOU STAY
WITH NO
FOOD? IT'S
DARK AND
COLD.



IT'S WARM
HERE.
THERE'S SO
MUCH FOOD.
COME...

NO!!



BUT
THE
DEVIL
CAN SEE
THEM.

THE CHILD
FINALLY GIVES
IN AND
LEAVES THE
MOUNTAIN.
THEN THE
DEVIL CLAIMS
HIM.



THE
DESPONDENT
MOTHER
LEAPS FROM
THE MOUNTAIN,
KILLING
HERSELF.

THE DEVIL'S
PROMISE IS
ALWAYS AN
INVITATION
TO DEATH. YOU
CAN'T ESCAPE
THE SACRIFICES
YOU MAKE.



IT'S
SO
SAD.

I
BELIEVE
IN
THIS
OPERA.

THIS
IS MY
LIFE'S
GREATEST
WORK.



SO IT'S
YOUR
PURPOSE
IN
LIFE.

HM?

WHY.
YES, YOU
CERTAINLY
COULD SAY
THAT.



HELLO,
NARU-
TAKI.

YOU
LIKE
THE
SET?

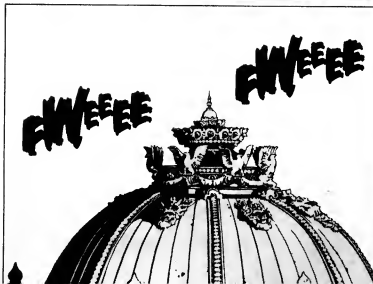
IT'S
WONDER-
FUL.

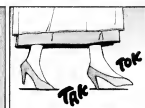
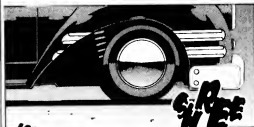


EVERY-
THING'S
RUNNING
SMOOTHLY.
WE'RE
READY.

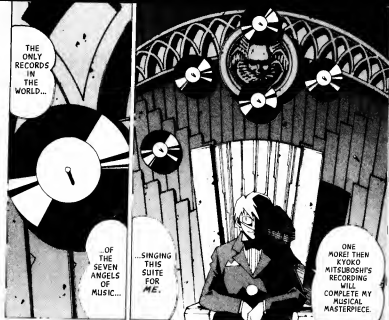
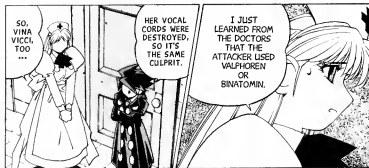
HELLO,
MS.
MITSU-
BOSHI.

YES,
WE
ARE.











YES.
WILL IT
BE
SAFE?



I WON'T
LET LE
BREAD
HAVE
HIS
WAY...

...NOR
THE
OTHER
CULPRIT.

BUT
I'LL NEED
YOUR
HELP
...

HUH
?

SO
TOMOR-
ROW'S
THE
BIG
SHOW.



KYOKO,
WHY ARE
YOU HERE?
THERE'S THE
PRESS CON-
FERENCE...

CON-
FERENCE
?

YES,
FOR THE
CONCERT...

...AND
TO
ANNOUNCE
OUR
ENGAGE-
MENT.

OH, I'M
SORRY!



WOW!
REALLY!?
WELL,
THEN--

CONGRATU-
LATIONS!



SO
YOU'RE
OFF TO
OPERA
PLAZA
?

YES, THE
CONFERENCE
IS IN THE
LOBBY.

MAY I
COME
ALONG
?

YES,
IF YOU
DON'T
MIND THE
BACK
SEAT.



IT WAS
ODD
NOT TO
SEE
KAWA-
KURO.

BR
RM
BURM

HE'S
ON AN
ERRAND.



HM?





HURRY
UP, THE
REPORTERS
ARE
WAITING.

AREN'T
YOU
COMING
?

I WANT
TO CHECK
THE
PREMISES.

YOU
GO ON
AHEAD.

SEE
YOU
LATER,
THEN.

WHAT
A
STRANGE
LEAF.

WHY
WAS IT
IN MR.
YOHANE'S
CAR?

FIP

KL
IK

WITH
OPENING
NIGHT
ONLY
HOURS
AWAY...

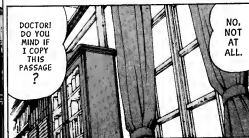


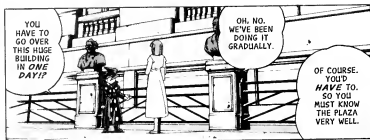
...THERE
WAS
SOMETHING
OMINOUS
IN THE AIR
OF OPERA
PLAZA.

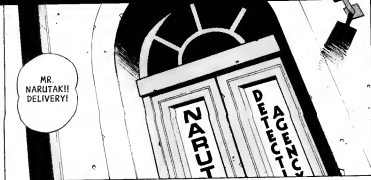


CASE 21, Part 4
OPENING NIGHT APPROACHES

IMPERIAL
PHARMACEUTICAL
UNIVERSITY







MR.
NARUTAKI!!
DELIVERY!



THIS
IS
QUITE
A
SHIP-
MENT.

I
WONDER
WHAT'S
INSIDE.



THE
INVOICE
SAYS
IT'S
A
MODEL.

I
SEE.
SO
HE
WENT
SHOPPING.



HAVE
A
GOOD
DAY,
SIR!

NOW
THEN
...



FIRST
WE
MUST
MOVE
THESE
TO
NARUTAKI'S
ROOM.

GORIKI!!
I
NEED
YOUR
HELP.



RR
!

I
MUST
TELL
NARUTAKI
TO
CURTAIL
HIS
SHOPPING
HABITS...

HMM.



NARUTAKI!!
HOW
ABOUT
A
LIFT
TO
YOUR
OFFICE?

MR.
YOHANE.



HOW'D
THE
PRESS
CONFERENCE
GO?

THEY
WOULDN'T
LET
US
GO
EVEN
AFTER
IT
WAS
OVER.



THEY
JUST
LOVE
THIS
ANGEL
OF
MUSIC
HERE.

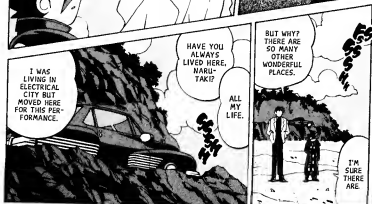
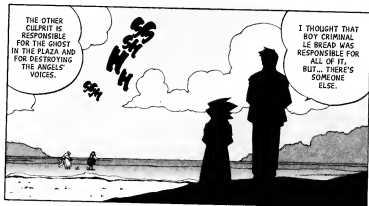
OH,
PLEASE
!



WHY
DON'T
WE
TAKE
THE
SCENIC
ROUTE?

YAY!
A
DRIVE
!









LE
BREAD
?



HE'S
NOT
IN.



HE
MUST BE
OVER
THERE...



WELCOME
HOME,
LANG
LANG.

I
HEARD
THE
OPERA
PLAZA
WAS
CROWDED.



HOW WAS
NARUTAKI?
HE MUST
HAVE BEEN
INSPECTING
THE
PREMISES.

HE'S SO
DEDICATED.
SOMETHING
I ADMIRE
ABOUT
HIM.
HA HA HA
HA HA.

LE
BREAD
...



BUT HE'S ALWAYS BEEN IN YOUR WAY.

BUT, THAT'S WHAT MAKES MY FOOLISH LIFE ENJOYABLE!

...I'LL MAKE THE MOST OF MY TIME UNTIL THE VERY END.

I'VE FINALLY FOUND MY PURPOSE IN LIFE.

YES ...

THANKS TO HIM...

LANG LANG, DON'T LOOK AT ME THAT WAY.

I'M HAVING THE TIME OF MY LIFE!



IT'S BEEN WONDERFUL SINCE I ENCOUNTERED THAT BOY DETECTIVE.

THIS IS WHAT IT MUST MEAN TO BE "LIVING."



LE BREAD ...



LANG LANG, THIS STEAM BAT IS A WONDERFUL PARTNER.

LE BREAD, **MUST** YOU RECORD KYOKO MITSUBOSHI SINGING?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN ?

THAT SONG. IT'S...

I WILL NEED IT SOON.

SURELY YOU UNDERSTAND THAT.

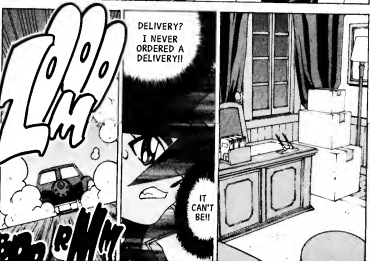
I THANK YOU FOR IT.



I'M GOING TO BED. PUT MY MEDICINE AND WATER ON THE NIGHTSTAND LATER.

LE BREAD... AM I REALLY DOING WHAT'S BEST FOR YOU?

I...







TO BE CONTINUED...



Kia Asamiya

The veil of secrecy has been lifted somewhat on this elusive author, but mystery still surrounds him. Since his debut work on *Vagrants* in 1986, he has produced some very popular manga and anime including *Silent Möbius*, *Möbius Klein*, *Compiler*, *Assembler*, *Gunhed*, *Dark Angel*, *Martian Successor Nadesico*, *Corrector Yui* and others. In North America, he has published comics of such mega-hits as *X-MEN*, *BATMAN* and *STAR WARS*. His work is so popular in America, it has been published by five of the six top-selling comic companies in the United States—a feat unprecedented by any manga artist.

**A
re-
lea-
se!**

YEAH...

...RIGHT
?

I
MEAN...

...WHAT
IS
THAT...
?

FWUUUU

**FW
UU**

**Random
Scans**

.....

**&
Kick
The
Litty**

!